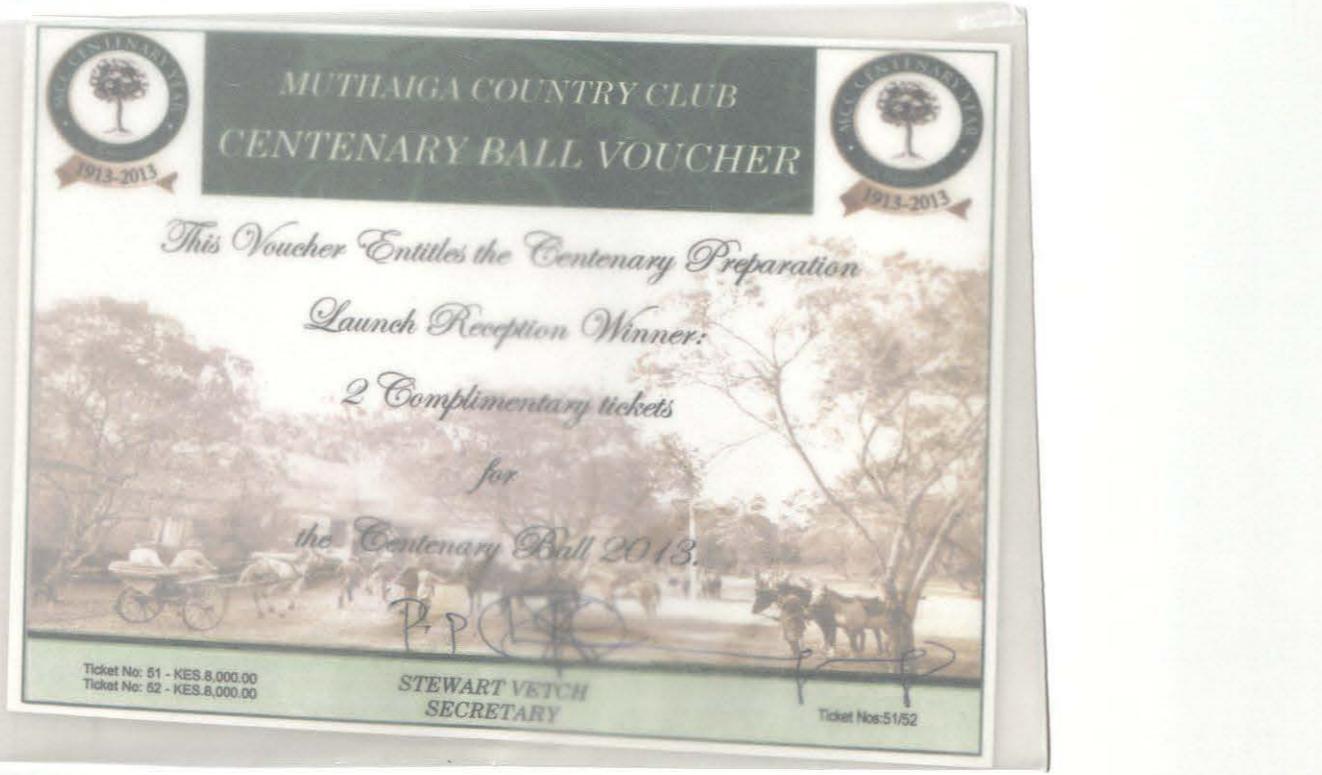




# Muthaiga

The First One Hundred Years

Stephen Mills & Yovo Vetch



## Muthaiga Country Club

The First One Hundred Years



## Foreword

Muthaiga Country Club celebrated its Centenary amidst an evening of New Year splendour, sirikisa dancers, much popping of champagne corks, an array of sumptuous dishes and dancing by nearly 400 members into the wee hours – and more until dawn. Members were in jubilant mood – becoming of its great traditions spanning ten decades from that first evening on 31 December 1913 when a mere fourteen founding members launched the establishment as darkening clouds of war scurried across Europe and Eastern Africa.

So it was thought that a Centenary commemoration in scrapbook style was appropriate to mark such a historic milestone in the Club's long existence.

Under the guiding eye of the Committee and larded with some rigorous research by Yoyo Vetch, the authorship is again that of the resourceful, well skilled and accomplished Stephen Mills who earlier delivered our history in coffee table book style: The History of Muthaiga Country Club, 1913-63. The Club owes him special gratitude.

Members have played a big part in this production. Their submissions take us all into the lives, characters, antics and frolics of our members down the years.

We are taken on a safari from the Club's earliest days to the Republic of Kenya at Fifty today. There is a rich store of accounts and vignettes from the settler farmers – gentry and pioneer, the romantics - yes Karen Blixen, Dennis Finch Hatton and Joss Errol, a strong sprinkling of royalty, film stars, and eccentrics to the giants of the post-independence era. Equally, no Club builds 'character' unless those who have served as waiters, barmen, chefs and administrative staff can have their stories told. Several accounts add great colour to this book.

The Club's ability to remain a catalyst for those in Kenyan society of all cultures, creeds and races able to embrace the future and make changes, whilst fiercely protecting the Club's traditional values, flows through the text and images. The members' appetite to enjoy that precious mix of gracious living, good-humoured social interchange and friendship in a place where fine food, wine, and excellent amenities abound – all within a rapidly growing metropolis, shines forth.

As the time capsule placed in the Club precincts one hundred years after the foundation stone was laid on 28 September, 2012 awaits it's time to be opened a century from now, may the members continue to keep the spirit of Muthaiga right on course.

Colin Church  
Chairman  
Muthaiga Country Club  
December 2013



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